

## Message Text

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16-20

ACTION NEA-10

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /066 W

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O R 021045Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL MADRAS

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

SECSTATE WASHDC 3265

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRAS 190

FOLLOWING BEINGSENT DEPARTMENT PER DUTY OFFICER'S REQUEST

E.O. 11652: GD Z

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN TAMIL NADU

1. ALTHOUGH WE ARE HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY IN PINNING DOWN SPECIFICS, IT APPEARS THAT A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF POLITICAL ARRESTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN TAMIL NADU DURING THE FIRST 36 HOURS OF PRESIDENT'S RULE. POLICE SOURCES TELL US THAT AS OF YESTERDAY ABOUT 35

SECOND LEVEL DMK PARTY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING MANY DISTRICT AND TALUQ SECRETARIES, HAD BEEN TAKEN INLA CUSTODY. WE HAVE CONFIRMATION FROM TWO POLICE SOURCES THAT SOME OF THE MORE PROMINENT AMONG THOSE ARRESTED ARE THE FOLLOWING: ARCOT VEERASWAMY, MLA AND SECRETARY, DMK HEADQUARTERS; R.T. SEETHAPATHY, SECRETARY, DMK; MADRAS DISTRICT; CHITTY BABU, MP AND SECRETARY, DMK PROPAGANDA WING; M. SUBU, DMK ASSISTANT SECRETARY, MADRAS; M. SUBRAMANIAM, MLA FROM ERODE; M.K. STALIN, SECOND SON OF FORMER CHIEF MINISTER KARUNANIDHI; K. VEZHAVENDAM, MLA AND

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A DMK MINISTER IN 1969-70; NEELA NARAYANAN, ORGANIZING SECRET-

ARY OF DMK ; AND K. ARIVAZHAGAN, MLC AND BROTHER OF FORMER HEALTH MINISTER ANBAZHAGAN. (THOSE ARE IN ADDITION TO A.V.P. ASAITHAMBI, MLA, WHOSE ARREST WE REPORTED YESTERDAY.) MOST OF THESE REPRESENT THE MORE EXTREMIST ELEMENTS IN THE DMK; THE ARREST OF KARUNANIDHI'S SON, STALIN, MAY RESULT FROM HIS HAVING STAGED SOME ANTI-INDIRA DRAMAS RECENTLY. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT S. KANDAPPAN, MLA AND CHAIRMAN OF THE TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD, HAS BEEN ARRESTED AND THAT ARREST WARRANTS HAVE BEEN ISSUED AGAINST MURASOLI MARAN, MP AND K. MURUGAYYAN, MLA AND SECRETARY OF DMK, NORTH ARCOT DISTRICT. IN ADDITION TO THESE DMK ARRESTS, ONE OF THE ANTI-MERGER CONGRESS (O) TAMIL LANGUAGE PAPERS THIS MORNING REPORTS THAT THREE ANTI-MERGER CONGRESS (O) OFFICIALS, TWO IN MADRAS AND ONE IN MADURAI, WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY YESTERDAY. WE HAVE HAD REPORTS THAT ABOUT 50 DMK MEMBERS HAVE ALSO BEEN ARRESTED, AND POLICE SOURCES CONFIRM THE ARREST OF THE DK SECRETARY, K. VEERAMANI. SOME INDUSTRIALISTS TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT SEVERAL CPM PARTY WORKERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE ACTIVE IN LABOR UNIONS, ARE ALSO BEING ARRESTED, INIUEFNG V.P. CHINTAM, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TAMIL NADU CPM ANDFPSECRETARY OF CITU, BUT OUR POLICE SOURCES SAY THEY CANNOT CONFIRM THE ARRESTS OF MARXISTS. SOME DMK SOURCES TELL US THAT ABOUT 500 PARTY MEMBERS HAD BEEN ARRESTED AS OF YESTERDAY, AND ONE OF OUR POLITICAL ASSISTANTS OBSERVED A HAND-WRITTEN WALL POSTER THIS MORNING WHICH SAID THAT 2500 DMK, DK, AND CPM MEMBERS HAD BEEN ARRESTED SO FAR. WE CANNOT MCW CONFIRM THESE FIGURES, WHICH APPEAR ON THE HIGH SIDE BUT A BLD SOURCE TELLS US HE HAS POLICE CONFIRMATION THAT 2400, INCLUDING ANTI-SOCIAL ELEMENTS, HAVE BEEN ROUNDED UP IN THE STATE SINCE THE EARLY HOURS OF FEBRUARY 1, AND THAT, OF THESE, ABOUT 240 ARE DMK PARTY OFFICE HOLDERS. IGP ARUL TOLD AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST THAT ARRESTS WERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF A FEW HUNDRED. THE ONLY REFERENCE TO ARRESTS IN THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS IS IN G.K. REDDY'S REPORT FROM DELHI IN THIS MORNING'S HINDU IN WHICH HE SAYS THAT "A NUMBER OF KNOWN BAD CHARACTERS AND POLITICAL TROUBLEMAKERS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY PURELY AS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE."

2. THE POLICE YESTERDAY WERE PRESENT IN LARGER THAN NORMAL NUMBERS AT CINEMA HOUSES AND WERE SYSTEMATICALLY BREAKING UP GROUPS OF MORE THAN 3 OR 4 PERSONS, AND LOADING ANY RESISTERS INTO POLICE WAGONS. THE DMK NEWSPAPER MURASOLI HAS APPEALED TO PARTY MEMBERS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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GO SINGLY TO ANNADORAI'S STATUE AND GRAVESITE TOMORROW (ANNADORAI'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY) IN ORDER NOT TO GIVE ANY PRETEXT FOR POLLICE ACTION AGAINST THEM. THE LEADER OF THE DK, THE WINDOW OF E.V. RAMASWAMI NAICKER, HAS ALSO ISSUED AN APPEAL TO HER FOLLOWERS ALONG SIMILAR LINEA,

3. MADRAS REMAINS QUIET. CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE ARE GUARDING GOI INSTALLATIONS, INCLUDING THE HEAVY VEHICLES FACTORY AT AVADI.

SEVERAL OF THE FORMER MINISTERS HAVE ALREADY VACATED THEIR OFFICIAL RESIDENCES. ALL OF THEIR TELEPHONES WERE CUT ON SATURDAY NIGHT, AND WE ARE INFORMED THAT THEY ARE ALL UNDER CLOSE POLICE SURVEILLANCE THOUGH NOT HOUSE ARREST. GOI ADVISOR P.K. DAVE IS QUOTED IN THIS MORNING'S PAPERS AS SAYING HE IS "HAPPY THINGS ARE WELL UNDER CONTROL IN THE STATE AND PEOPLE ARE COOPERATING IN MAINTAINING PEACE AND TRANQUILITY." WE HAVE HAD A REPORT OF A MINOR DISTURBANCE INVOLVING DMK FOLLOWERS IN MADURAI YESTERDAY AND OF THE DESPATCH OF TROOPS BY TRAIN THIS MORNING FROM MADRAS TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION SOUTH OF MADRAS. THE HOME GUARDS IN MADRAS WERE CALLED UP FOR DUTY THIS MORNING.

4. OF THE THREE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE MADRAS DAILIES, THE INDIAN EXPRESS IS THE ONLY ONE NOT PULLING OUT ALL STOPS IN PRAISE OF THE IMPOSITION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE. THE MAIL LAST NIGHT RAN WHAT PURPORTED TO BE A NEWS STORY UNDER THE BANNER HEADLINE "CALM, PEACEFUL TAMIL NADU WELCOMES PRESIDENT'S RULE," WITH PARAGRAPH HEADINGS SUCH AS "DMK WRONGS HAVE TO BE SET RIGHT," "DAY OF DELIVERANCE," "TIMELY ACTION," "FREED FROM TYRANNY," "SIGH OF RELIEF," ETC. THE BRAHMIN EDITORS OF THE HINDU THIS MORNING GIVE UNRESTRAINED VENT OF THEIR LONG-STANDING, PENT UP ANTI-DMK BIAS IN AN EDITORIAL WHICH FINDS THE REMOVAL OF THE DMK GOVERNMENT FULLY JUSTIFIED AND AN ACT WHICH "WILL BE ENDORSED BY LARGE SECTIONS OF THE PUBLIC WHO HAVE SUFFERED UNDER NINE LONG YEARS OF SUCH MISRULE." AND G.K. REDDY WRITES FROM DELHI THAT "AS PART OF THE CENTER'S DRIVE TO CLEANSE PUBLIC LIFE IN TAMIL NADU AND TONE UP THE QUALITY OF ADMINISTRATION, THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY OF A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY BEING APPOINTED TO PROBE THE CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AND MISUSE OF POWER BY THE DMK GOVERNMENT."  
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